FOREST DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, 1938–39.

Another year of constructive work has been completed by the Forest Development Projects, inaugurated in the fall of 1936 under the supervision of the Forest Service. Designed as a relief measure to alleviate unemployment, the plan has returned excellent dividends in the work accomplished and in building up the morale of the men in camp. This improved morale is due principally to their realization of the constructive value of their own efforts, to considerate treatment, and to the attitude of the public, who regard them as labourers in a forestry camp completing worth-while work. Credit for the progress of work can be given to the foremen and sub-foremen who were, for the greater part, Assistant Rangers with years of Forest Service experience.

As in previous years, the primary cost of the programme was borne equally by the Labour Departments of the Dominion and Provincial Governments, with certain administration costs borne entirely by the Provincial Government. Selection and enrolment of men was taken care of by the Provincial Labour Department.

Regularly enrolled men were paid at the rate of 30 cents per hour, with an additional 5 cents per hour being paid to straw-bosses appointed from the enrollees. Board, lodging, and transportation were charged for at the rate of 75 cents per day in camp. Flunkies and bullcooks were paid at the rate of $30 per month and board. A portion of each enrollee's pay was deferred until completion of period of employment and then made payable in $4 vouchers which could only be cashed at the rate of one voucher per week.

A maximum of 1,313 enrollees was employed at one time, this being during the winter when nineteen projects were in operation. With the inauguration of a summer programme of five Rehabilitation Projects for unemployed returned soldiers and the establishment of thirteen other projects, four of which were in the Nelson Forest District, a total of 4,441 regularly enrolled men passed through the various camps. These men accomplished 221,104 man-days of work, the main classifications of which were as follows:—

(1.) Park Development, 52.2 per cent. of total man-days.
(2.) Forest-protection, 31.8 per cent. of total man-days.
(3.) Forest Experiment Stations and planting, 16 per cent. of total man-days.

Park areas on which improvement and protection work was undertaken included John Dean Park, Thetis Lake Park, Glintz Lake, Englishman River Falls, Little Qualicum Falls, Stamp Falls, Medicine Bowls, Elk Falls, Mount Seymour, Cultus Lake, Capilano Canyon, Kokanee, and King George VI. Parks. Particular attention was given to reduction of fire-hazards in the vicinity, and to the rendering of these areas more accessible for the general public by improvements and construction of highways.

Development of a new Forest Nursery at Campbell River was started, in addition to the continuation of improvement-work at the Green Timbers Forest Experiment Station and the University of British Columbia Demonstration Forest. An extensive planting programme was carried out in the vicinity of Campbell River.

The most important phase of forest-protection work undertaken was the opening-up of abandoned railroad grades into particularly hazardous areas, making them accessible for forest-protection mobile equipment. Snag-falling was undertaken from nearly all camps, and the success of this work indicates that even greater attention can be paid to this important phase of fire prevention and suppression.

Number of projects	26
Enrolled at one time (maximum)	1,313
Total men enrolled	4,441
Man-days worked (supervisory included)	232,405

NATIONAL FORESTRY PROGRAMME AND YOUTH FORESTRY TRAINING PLAN, 1939.

A forestry programme designed for youth training is not a new undertaking for British Columbia. The idea germinated in 1935 when this Province stimulated public interest in forest activities by opening its Forest Experiment Stations, its forest parks, and its forest reserves to nearly 500 young men who were enrolled in furtherance of protection and conservation policies in the first Province-wide Young Men's Forestry Training Plan conducted in the Dominion.